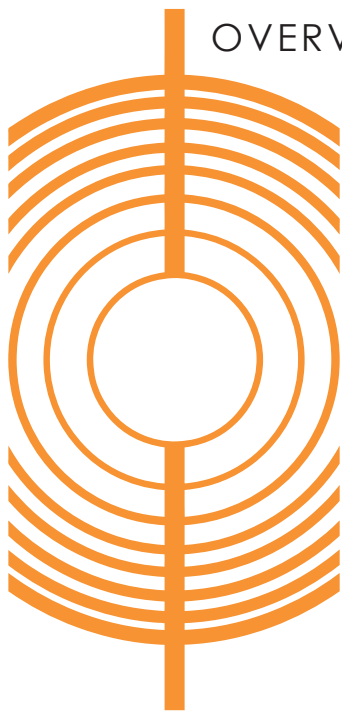




OVERVIEW OF NEW ANSM TRAINING INITIATIVES

In 2009, the Association of Nova Scotia Museums began an extensive consultation process to assess the training needs of its members and the best means of responding to these needs. The final report developed by A. L. Arbic Consulting and Genesis Consulting identified six key recommendations regarding museology training in Nova Scotia:

- I. Create and implement core curriculum leading to a **Certificate in Museum Studies**
- II. Create new position: **Outreach and Training Advisor**
- III. Facilitate **Advanced Workshops**
- IV. Continue the **Annual Conference**, with a focus on networking and new ideas/trends.
- V. Create and compile **Online Learning Resources**
- VI. Establish (or assist in identifying sources of and obtaining) **Travel Funding**

I. CERTIFICATE IN MUSEUM STUDIES

- 8 two-day courses leading to a certificate in museum studies
- courses offered on a rotating three-year cycle
- local and regional delivery where possible
- small workshop settings
 - formal instruction
 - group discussion
 - hands-on exercises
 - graded take-home assignments
- focus on core competencies and standards of museum practice

Each course will be offered once in a three year period, so members are strongly encouraged to enroll in courses as they are offered to complete the certificate in a timely fashion. Enroll early and often!

Fees associated with these courses will be reasonable and it is hoped local/regional delivery will alleviate travel costs.

This training will be of value to the museum community, helping to establish a strong foundation of skilled museum workers in the province. Museum staff and volunteers hoping to refresh and/or upgrade their skills, as well as those without prior museology training, will benefit from this comprehensive program, which is tied to seven core competencies. This certificate program will also be an asset for students and other individuals who would like to pursue a career in the museum sector.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUSEUMS 101

- origins and evolution of museums in society
- unique features that distinguish museums from other types of institutions
- core functions carried out by museums
- trends and challenges

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT AND CURATORSHIP

- role collections play in museums
- essential policies and procedures for proper care, management and use of collections
- acquisitions, documentation, handling, and deaccessioning
- computerized records and online access
- ethics, legal issues, tax receipts, insurance, and copyright

INTERPRETATION I: PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

- fulfilling the educational role of museums through programming
- learning styles, types of interpretation, and interactivity
- creating effective programs for schools and the public
- evaluating programs

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II. OUTREACH AND TRAINING ADVISOR

- assist with development & delivery of core curriculum
- subscription service
- provide support for ANSM IT database service
- on-site follow-up support and/or additional training
- responds to specific needs of members and member organizations
- wide range of museum skills and activities

III. ADVANCED WORKSHOPS: SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSEOLOGY

- professional development opportunities beyond the core curriculum
- minimum of 1 special topics workshops per year
- possible topics:
 - Making the Most of New Media
 - New Approaches to Interpretation
 - Change Management
 - Maintaining Historic Structures

IV. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- emphasis on networking opportunities
- annual themes related to one of the core museum functions
- exposure to current trends and issues in museology
- examination of best practices and case studies (provincial, national, international)

V. ONLINE LEARNING RESOURCES

- use of ANSM website as a portal pointing the way to training materials and resources available online
- create an easily accessible list of resources developed by other museums, museum associations, funding bodies, and academic institutions to facilitate museum operation, management, and government

VI. TRAVEL FUNDING

- assist members with identifying other sources of travel funding (such as CMA)
- investigate possible means of increasing travel funding for training

Courses continued...

INTERPRETATION II: EXHIBITIONS

- creating successful visitor experiences
- types of interpretive resources – artifacts, archival materials, intangible cultural heritage
- interpretive planning and sustainable exhibit development
- new trends in museum exhibits

MUSEUMS AND THE COMMUNITY

- role of museum in the community
- understanding and responding to community needs
- community outreach
- developing community-based partnerships

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- responsibilities, policies, and techniques for managing museum facilities
- public safety and services, workplace safety, and security
- facility and site planning
- federal standards and guidelines for conservation of historic places

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

- roles and responsibilities of boards, staff, and volunteers
- mission, mandate, vision, and values
- strategic planning and business planning
- budgeting, managing finances, and fiscal responsibility
- recruiting, training, managing, and retaining volunteers and staff

MARKETING AND REVENUE GENERATION

- developing marketing plans and communications tools
- generating income and basic fundraising methods
- identifying, assessing, and capitalizing on public and contributed funding opportunities
- internet-based marketing and revenue generation

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